

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

HASEGAWA et al

Atty. Ref.: **1417-370**

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

Filed: **November 26, 2001**

Examiner:

For: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING
CARBON BLACK, AND FURNACE COMBUSTION
APPARATUS AND FURNACE COMBUSTION METHOD**

November 26, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

3. (Amended) A carbon black producing apparatus according to Claim 1 having an additional fuel feed port in each of the oxygen-containing gas feed ports.

4. (Amended) A carbon black producing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the shape of the oxygen-containing feed port opened into the reactor is non-circular.